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"the accession of a British king" had gone far to allay Tory feeling is explained as referring to George II. The reference is to George III., who said on his accession : "Born and educated in this country, I glory in the name of Briton." On p. 276 the editor nods in explaining Gibbon's simple assertion that "the writer who succeeds in London is speedily read on the banks of the Delaware and the Ganges," as follows : "That is, America and India. At this time Philadelphia was the great publishing centre of the one, Calcutta of the other." Obviously, it is not a question of publishing centres but of the confines of the English reading public. In the note on Ramusio, p. 272, the editor says that Ramusio's book "was printed in 1609 and never reprinted, so that this accounts for Gibbon's not being able to use it before." It was reprinted in 1634 or 1635 and it was this second edition which Gibbon used, as may be seen from the note descriptive of the work at the end of his sixtieth chapter.

An index would be a distinct help in the use of this edition and should be added in a reissue.

EDWARD G. BOURNE.

Mirabeau. By P. F. WILLERT, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Exeter College, Oxford. [Foreign Statesmen.] (London: Macmillan and Co.; New York: The Macmillan Co. 1898. Pp. xi, 230.)

THIS volume is one of a series of brief biographies of statesmen that Macmillan and Company are publishing. The book is intended for the general public and contains no apparatus in the form of footnotes and, apart from the brief preface, no reference to the material used in the preparation of it.

Mirabeau was the most prominent figure of the first period of the Revolution, but no complete biography of the man has yet been published in English. Loménie's three large volumes and Stern's two volumes still stand alone. Mr. Willert's book, as a sketch of Mirabeau's life, is worthy to rank with the excellent short French biographies by Rousse and Mézières. He seems, however, to have been ignorant of Professor Von Holst's two volumes on Mirabeau (*The French Revolution tested by Mirabeau's Career*, Chicago, 1894), when he wrote in his preface : "I do not know that much of importance has been written in English regarding Mirabeau, except an essay by Macaulay." An essay that devotes about two pages to Mirabeau can hardly be called an important contribution to the literature on Mirabeau, while it is really worth the while of the student of Mirabeau's life to know what Professor Von Holst has written about him. Mr. Willert's volume is really a biography and treats at some length the period previous to 1789; the American work contains but one chapter on this period. Professor Von Holst cites his evidence, however, and for this reason would serve better as an introduction to the study of Mirabeau's life.

Apparently Mr. Willert's aim was to present in concise form the re-

sults of the investigations of such men as Loménie and Stern, supplementing their work by a first-hand knowledge of such material as is found in the *Mémoires* of Montigny, the correspondence of Mirabeau with La Marck and others, Mirabeau's notes to the Court, and his speeches. It is a work of condensation and not of original research. But to condense the life of Mirabeau into two hundred and thirty pages is a difficult task and Mr. Willert has performed it in a highly creditable manner. The proportions are good and the division into chapters shows excellent judgment. The latter part of the work is, to my mind, better than the first part. It shows a firmer grasp of the subject and more unity in the treatment of it. In the first part, not sufficient emphasis is laid upon the fact that the period from 1750 to 1789 in French history was characterized by the crystallization of public opinion in opposition to arbitrary power and that nearly everything that Mirabeau wrote during these years shows him to have been one of the most persistent and consistent advocates of this opposition. Mr. Willert is sympathetic in his treatment of Mirabeau, but it has seemed to me that now and then he is unfair in his treatment of the Revolution (p. 105).

Good as it is, the book is naturally not without defects. There is lack of uniformity in the treatment of French expressions ; there are some obscure passages due to too great condensation or to the failure to follow the order of events, and there are some—not many—inaccuracies. The chief defect, as it appears to me, is the lack at times of sufficient background. How much background an historical work should contain is, of course, a matter of judgment, but I believe that the conservative critic would agree with me that Mr. Willert has not always given his Mirabeau a satisfactory setting.

The style of the book is most attractive, although at times (pp. 92, 229) the similes are considerably overdone. One of the most striking sentences that I recall is taken from a description of Mirabeau in the Assembly (p. 87) : "His rough-hewn features and shaggy locks were suited, like the mask of an ancient actor, for distant effect." Could Macaulay have done better?

FRED MORROW FLING.

Histoire du Second Empire. Par PIERRE DE LA GORCE. Tome Quatrième. (Paris : E. Plon, Nourrit et Cie. 1899. Pp. 642.)

THIS is the fourth volume of the well-known work of M. de la Gorce on the Second Empire, and there are two more volumes to come. The period discussed is that from 1860 to 1866 and the volume contains not only an admirable account of that tumultuous and exciting era in French politics which culminated in the elections of 1863, but also long and practically complete chapters on the Mexican expedition, the Polish insurrection, and the whole Schleswig-Holstein affair leading to the Danish and Austro-Prussian wars.

The present volume brings out with exceptional clearness the chang-